

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8254
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 04466

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: SHUM, IR
SUBJ: NEW PRISONERRELEASE TOTALS: CIVILIAN JUDGE SENDS
CIVILIAN DISSIDENT TO MILITARY COURT

1. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TOLD ETTALA'AT NEWSPAPER REPORTER MAY 8 THAT GOI HAS THUS FAR RELEASED TOTAL OF 2,599 PRISONERS WHO WERE CONVICTED IN MILITARY TRIBUNALS UNDER RECENT AMNESTY LEGISLATION. FARSI STORY, BUT NOT ENGLISH, CARRIES SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT THAT THERE REMAIN IN JAIL 2000 INDIVIDUALS CONVICTED BY MILITARY COURT. WHILE FIGURES ARE INTERESTING, PARAMETERS ARE VAGUE--TIME FRAME NOT GIVEN AND DISTINCTION BETWEEN ANTI-STATE" PRISONERS TRIED IN MILITARY COURTS AND COMMON SMUGGLERS AND MILITARY LAW OFFENDERS WHO ARE ALSO TRIED BY SAME COURTS IS NOT MADE. SHAH TOLD AMBASSADOR RECENTLY THAT ABOUT 2,000 "POLITICAL" PRISONERS REMAINED IN JAIL. SHAH DID NOT SPECIFY IF ALL THESE HAD BEEN TRIED IN MILITARY COURT OR NOT, AND WE SUSPECT IRANIANS MAY BE VICTIMS OF SAME NUMBER OF DEFINITIONS GAME THAT BEDEVELS EVERYONE DEALING IN THESE MATTERS. EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY THESE AND PREVIOUS FIGURES, AS OPPORTUNITIES PRESENT THEMSELVES.

2. PRESS MAY 10 CARRIED SMALL ITEM THAT SHIRAZ DOCTOR
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NAMED KERMATOLLAH HOSSAINI HAS BEEN ARRESTED IN SHIRAZ FOR ALLEGEDLY POSSESSING SUBVERSIVE BOOKS AND CASSETTES AND WILL BE TRIED BY MILITARY COURT. PERSIAN REPORTER TOLD EMBOFF THAT STORY IS POSSIBLY MORE INTERESTING THAN MINIMAL NEWS COVERAGE SUGGESTS. APPARENTLY DOCTOR WAS ARRESTED MAY 6 OR 7 AND BROUGHT BEFORE CIVILIAN MAGISTRATE-WHO RULED THAT HOSSAINI MUST GO BEFORE

MILITARY TRIBUNAL. GOI'S POLICY OF TRYING DISSIDENTS
IN CIVILIAN COURT IS PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND SOURCE OPINED
THAT SHIRAZ JUDGE WAS "ONE WHO DIDN'T GET THE WORD; HE'LL
BE A GOOD CANDIDATE FOR THE CHAH BAHAR TRIAL COURT,"
(EQUIVALENT TO EXILE TO SIBERAL). SOURCE THOUGHT THIS WAS
ISOLATED INCIDENT, BUT WE WILL BE WATCHING TO SEE IF,
AND UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS, SITUATION MIGHT BE REPEATED.
SULLIVAN

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